

*A 1*

On page 1, line 5, please replace the paragraph beginning "The present invention relates," with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates, first, to methods for the modulation of acid sphingomyelinase (ASM)-related processes, including apoptosis. Such apoptosis can include, but is not limited to, environmental stress-induced apoptosis such as, for example, ionizing radiation and/or chemotherapeutic agent-induced apoptosis. Apoptosis can be characterized by a cellular morphology comprising cellular condensation, nuclear condensation or zeiosis. The present invention further relates to methods for the identification of compounds which modulate (*i.e.*, either increase or decrease) sensitivity to ASM-related processes, including apoptosis.

*B 2*

On page 3, line 14, please replace the paragraph beginning "The present invention relates," with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates, first, to methods for the modulation of acid sphingomyelinase (ASM)-related processes, including apoptosis. Such apoptosis can include, but is not limited to, environmental stress-induced apoptosis such as, for example, ionizing radiation and/or chemotherapeutic agent-induced apoptosis. Apoptosis can be characterized by a cellular morphology comprising cellular condensation, nuclear condensation or zeiosis.

*B 3*

On page 38, line 2, please replace the paragraph beginning "The present invention relates," with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates, first, to methods for the modulation of acid sphingomyelinase (ASM)-related processes, including apoptosis. Such apoptosis can include, but is not limited to, environmental stress-induced apoptosis such as, for example, ionizing radiation and/or chemotherapeutic agent-induced apoptosis. Apoptosis can be characterized by a cellular morphology comprising cellular condensation, nuclear condensation or zeiosis. The present invention further relates to methods for the identification of compounds which modulate (*i.e.*, either increase or decrease) sensitivity to ASM-related processes, including apoptosis.